

Trump seizes opportunity to divide working class

COMMENTARY

By Toluse Olorunnipa and Ashley Parker
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump launched another broadside Saturday on a Democratic political opponent, calling a prominent black congressman's Baltimore district a "disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess" and saying "no human being would want to live there."

That Twitter attack on Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings, of Maryland, plunged the nation into yet another anguished debate over the president's divisive rhetoric. And it came just two weeks after Trump called out four minority congresswomen with a racist go-back-to-your-country taunt.

The assault on Cummings, chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, prompted immediate condemnations from Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, of California, Baltimore Mayor Bernard Young and several other top Democrats.

The outburst also undercut efforts by many Republicans over the past two weeks to defend Trump and insist that his earlier attacks were based in ideology rather than race.

But Trump's advisers had concluded after the previous tweets that the over-

all message sent by such attacks is good for the president among his political base - resonating strongly with the white working-class voters he needs to win reelection in 2020.

This has prompted them to find ways to fuse Trump's nativist rhetoric with a love-it-or-leave-it appeal to patriotism ahead of the 2020 election, while seeking to avoid the overtly racist language the president used in his tweets about the four congresswomen.

It's not clear whether Trump will abide by such limitations, however. The president kicked off his Twitter attack Saturday morning by calling the black lawmaker's Baltimore district a "very dangerous & filthy place."

Maryland's 7th district, which Cummings has represented since 1996, includes about half of Baltimore city and has a median household income of around \$60,000 and a higher percentage of college graduates than the country as a whole.

"Why is so much money sent to the Elijah Cummings district when it is considered the worst run and most dangerous anywhere in the United States," Trump continued in another tweet. "No human being would want to live there. Where is all this money going? How much is stolen? Investigate this corrupt mess immediately!"

The attack on Cummings underscores

Trump's penchant for undermining any attempts by other Republicans to steer clear of overtly racial attacks.

As condemnations have poured in over the past two weeks accusing Trump of bigotry - including a bipartisan House resolution decrying his "go back" tweets as racist - Trump's campaign has mounted an all-out effort to defend the president and turn his offensive comments into a political advantage with his base.

Republican officials say Trump is harnessing the anger of those who continue to feel left behind despite the strong economy, and steering their fury toward members of Congress he has accused of bad-mouthing the country and embracing socialist policies.

"This is Hillary's 'basket of deplorables' all over again," said Trump campaign communications director Tim Murtaugh, referring to a term Hillary Clinton used to brand some Trump supporters as bigots in 2016. "They're trying to say anyone who supports this president is racist."

Trump, who turned the "deplorables" label into a rallying cry for his base, is seeking to do the same in 2020 as he tries to retain support in key Midwestern swing states.

Trump kicked off the controversy with a July 14 Twitter attack on the four Democrats - Reps. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota,



Donald Trump

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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan - suggesting that they "go back" to the "totally broken and crime infested places from which they came." All four are U.S. citizens; Omar was born in Somalia.

That was followed several days later by a campaign rally in which the crowd broke into chants of "Send her back!" as Trump was attacking Omar. Facing some criticism from a smattering of Republican lawmakers, Trump briefly distanced himself from the chants - before fully embracing the chanters as "incredible patriots."

Campaign advisers and party officials, some of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations, said that an appeal targeted at Trump's white working-class base will not necessarily cost him moderate voters.

"The general assumption with everything Squad-related is this helps shore up our base. It definitely helps with white working-class voters," said one person close to the campaign, using the term that refers to the four congresswomen. "I think that shows that this can be turned into a positive, in terms of a very political viewpoint."



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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Department of Administration

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL No.: RFP 2019-0660-001

Independent Financial Auditing Services

The Department of Administration (DOA) is soliciting proposals from a U.S. Certified Public Accounting Firm for an audit (to include the Single Audit Act Provision) of the Government of Guam financial operations for FY 2019 through FY 2021, subject to the availability of funds and certification from fiscal year to fiscal year, and with an option to renew for one additional fiscal year. Required audit reports include a report on the financial statements and reports on internal control and compliance.

Request for Proposal (RFP) packages may be obtained at DOA Director's Office, in Tamuning, Guam any time between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. from Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. The RFP may also be downloaded at the Office of Public Accountability's website at www.opaquam.org, or at DOA's website at www.doa.guam.gov. **Deadline for submission of all proposals is 10:00 A.M. Chamorro Standard Time (Guam Time), August 30, 2019.** All proposals must be submitted to the attention of: Edward Birn, Director of the Department of Administration.

DOA, with the written approval of the Public Auditor, reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, solicit new proposals, waive minor informalities or irregularities or award the Independent Auditor in whole or in part.

All questions regarding the RFP should be made in writing and directed to the Director of the Department of Administration via facsimile at (671) 477-6788 or email at edward.birn@doa.guam.gov. Except to the above persons named, direct or indirect contact with DOA's Management or Staff, Board members, or any person participating in the selection process is prohibited.

/s/ EDWARD M. BIRN
Director, Department of Administration



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The Department of Administration (DOA) is soliciting proposals from a U.S. Certified Public Accounting Firm for an audit (to include the Single Audit Act Provision) of its financial operations of the Tourist Attraction Fund (TAF) and Guam Highway Fund (GHF) for FY 2019 through FY 2021, subject to the availability of funds and certification from fiscal year to fiscal year, and with an option to renew for one additional fiscal year. Required audit reports include a report on the financial statements and reports on internal control and compliance.

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